



**Public Service
of New Hampshire**
The Northeast Utilities System

PSNH Energy Park
780 North Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
www.psnh.com

News Release

Contact: Martin Murray, Media Representative
(603) 634-2228, murrame@psnh.com
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For Immediate Release

PSNH Supports Environmentally-Friendly Geothermal Center *Rewards Geothermal Customer and Forms Partnership to Provide Energy-Efficiency Education Program*

Manchester, NH May 14, 2007— Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) announced today that it has presented the first \$5,000 installment of a \$10,000 grant to the Peabody Mill Environmental Center of Amherst. The grant supports the Center in expanding into an energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly geothermal education center and creation of an energy-efficient education program.

The Peabody Mill Environmental Center is a community environmental and nature education center owned and operated by the Town of Amherst. At March's Town Meeting, Amherst voters approved plans for the center to expand to a state-of-the-art, 5,200 square ft., geothermal center, which will utilize the latest technology to achieve a high-efficiency energy profile. The \$10,000 grant will be used by the center to help address the estimated \$54,600 system installation cost and to develop an energy curriculum.

The new center will run geothermal heating and air conditioning systems. Geothermal energy uses a well to extract groundwater at the Earth's natural stable temperature, around 55°F (13 °C), to cool or heat the facility. Geothermal energy has significant initial costs associated with its installation and startup, but is desirable because it is one of the most energy-efficient ways to heat or cool a building. As a renewable energy source, it reduces oil and gas consumption. PSNH reports that residential customers have enjoyed a 50% reduction in heating and cooling costs after they switched to geothermal technology.

Since 1995, over 200 PSNH residential customers have installed geothermal pumps to heat and cool their homes. Peabody Mill Environmental Center joins only a handful of commercial clients that have chosen geothermal energy to date and is the first to integrate a significant education component as one of the primary reasons for their decision.

Builders will apply spray foam insulation to areas of the education center where air may leak. Spray foam insulation has greatly improved within the last few years and reduces energy consumption by expanding as it cures, sealing walls, roof and windows to prevent heat loss. Additionally, the center will boast features such as energy-efficient lighting, windows, and doors to achieve the highest possible energy savings.

Peabody Mill Environmental Center and PSNH are developing a strategic partnership to meet the increasing interest in information on energy conservation and the environment. Their proposed energy-efficiency educational program, which is currently in the design phase, will combine environmental education and energy-efficiency to address global climate change challenges. The remainder of the \$5,000 of the grant will be presented upon completion of the educational program design.

More information on PSNH's energy-efficiency programs can be found at www.psnh.com.

More information about the Peabody Mill Environmental Center and their expansion plans can be found at www.pmec.org.

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PSNH is New Hampshire's largest electric utility, generating and distributing clean electricity for more than 480,000 homes and businesses in an environmentally-friendly manner. Each year, PSNH supports dozens of forest protection, energy conservation, and environmental organizations through both financial contributions and generous employee volunteerism. PSNH is proud of its commitment to the environment and willingness to create innovative solutions to environmental issues. For more information, visit: www.psnh.com